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1962/01/00

(Geneva Jan 62)

From the Laos Desk
What he Said
in his message
to F.O.

After my discussions with Phoumi yesterday I wonder whether he is altogether quite sane. He is not only irrational and undependable but is also suffering from megalomania. He seems to me a pocket Napoleon who views the future of Laos almost wholly in terms of his own destiny. I fear he has a mystical belief that he must succeed by the power of his own will and I think he would not hesitate to embark on courses which will plunge Laos into war and perhaps endanger the whole of South East Asia if he calculates that this will help himself. There is no way of reasoning with him or of persuading him against such actions, except by convincing him that they would be against his personal interest; and the only possible course is to deprive him of any means of carrying them out.

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